


REMARKS

Applicants request the Patent Office to enter this Amendment prior to examination. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in the application are in allowable form and that the application is now in condition for allowance.

If any outstanding issues remain, however, Applicants urge the Patent Office to telephone Applicants so that the same may be resolved and the application expedited to issue. Applicants request the Patent Office to indicate all claims as allowable and to pass the application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Mattson', is written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature, the text '(Reg. No. 35,018)' is printed.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 18, 2003.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian M. Mattson', is written over a horizontal line.

Brian M. Mattson (Reg. No. 35,018)